

STAFF REPORT

Date: September 10, 2014

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Andrew Clinger, City Manager

Subject: **J.2. Staff Report (For Possible Action): Update on status of changes regarding the Washoe County Animal Control Ordinance specifically relating to pet sales; and direction to staff for an official recommendation from City Council to the Washoe County Commission.**

From: Alex Woodley, Revitalization Manager

Summary: In response to concerns expressed by citizens regarding the treatment of animals being sold in local businesses, the City and the County have directed staff to address the citizen's concerns. In February 2014, Acting Code Enforcement Manager Joe Henry provided a memo to Council with recommendations to request changes in the Animal Control ordinance providing stricter regulations regarding pet stores and breeders.

Previous Council Action: On April 16, 2014, Council adopted Ordinance Number 6329, which is codified as Reno Municipal Code (RMC) 4.04.067, entitled "Moratorium on the acceptance of business license applications for pet stores intending to conduct sales of dogs, cats or rabbits." The purpose of this ordinance was to provide time to study the regulations and research applicable laws to determine if adequate regulations are in place to protect the health and safety of these animals.

At the August 20, 2014 City Council meeting, Council requested an update on the status of the Washoe County ordinance changes to Chapter 55, which regulates Animal Control, and all aspects regarding the keeping, breeding, and caring of animals.

Background: The animal control ordinance, Washoe County Code (Chapter 55), is currently in the process of public input. Public meetings have been conducted as recent as August 27, 2014, and there may have been other meetings since the date this staff report was written. Code Enforcement staff attended two public input meetings on August 25, 2014 and August 27, 2014 regarding dangerous dogs, commercial breeding, and retail sales.

Discussion: As of August 28, 2014, City staff is aware of the implementation of changes made in the ordinance. These changes include most of the recommendations City staff provided to address the concerns of Council. Staff was informed that minor recommended changes, which

were not implemented in the ordinance, would be implemented in written policies and procedures. This approach provides flexibility for Washoe County Animal Control staff to make changes as needed if any parts of said policy prove to be a problem or ineffective, or if unforeseen new problems arise.

Financial Implications: None at this time.

Legal Implications: On April 23, 2003, the Mayor signed an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks regarding the consolidation of animal services. Article 8 of the Interlocal Agreement provided that the parties' intent was to consolidate the animal services and animal ordinances into a unified county ordinance to be enforced by the County. The amended County Code standardized and blended the City and County code provisions on animal licensing and permits, vaccination, rabies, livestock, fee collection, vicious animals regulation, adoption, impoundment, exotic animal controls, animal breeders and animal cruelty. Article 8 specified the City can recommend and the County shall consider suggestions for improving upon the amended County animal services and control ordinances.

Recommendation: Staff recommends Council accept the staff report update and provide direction to staff for an official recommendation from Council to the Washoe County Commission.

Proposed Motion: I move to accept the staff report.

Attachments:

- Animal Services Update - Attachment (PDF)